

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber block for aligning an optical waveguide device, comprising: an optical-fiber-alignment portion having an array of V grooves for accommodating non-coated optical fibers of a ribbon fiber, said array of V grooves including first V grooves disposed at both ends of said array of V grooves and an array of second V grooves that is different from said first V grooves disposed ~~between both ends of said first V grooves~~ and in immediate contact with said first V grooves; and, a stress-reduction-depth portion extended to a predetermined depth from said optical-fiber-alignment portion for reducing stress caused by coating materials of said optical fibers, ~~wherein said array of V grooves is formed by a primary etching and a secondary etching on said optical fiber block, and wherein the stress reduction depth portion is formed by an etching on said optical fiber block.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The optical fiber block of claim 1, wherein said second V grooves are etched substantially deeper than said first V grooves so that outer angular surfaces respectively defined by the second first V grooves span a depth in said optical fiber alignment portion greater than a depth spanned by ~~are lower than the first second~~ V grooves ~~with respect to the upper surface of said optical fiber alignment portion.~~

3. (Original) The optical fiber block of claim 1, wherein said array of V grooves includes adequate space to accommodate said non-coated optical fibers of the ribbon fiber.

4. (Original) A method for aligning an optical waveguide device, the method comprising the steps of: providing an output optical fiber block for transmitting light therethrough; performing a primary etching on one end of said optical fiber block to a first predetermined depth to form an optical-fiber-alignment portion and a secondary etching on the same end to a second predetermined depth to form an array of V grooves; performing a third etching on the other end of said optical fiber block to a third predetermined depth extending from said optical-fiber-alignment portion to form a stress-reduction-depth portion; aligning each of non-coated optical fibers of a ribbon fiber along said array of V grooves so that said non-coated optical fibers of the ribbon fiber are fully enclosed in said array of V grooves; and, bonding said non-coated optical fibers of the ribbon fiber to said array of V grooves for transmitting a signal light to one end of said optical waveguide device.